

August 9, 1955

Dr. Vernon Bryson  
Program Director for Genetic Biology  
National Science Foundation  
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Dr. Bryson:

I am enclosing a number of copies of an application for a research grant to support our work on genetic transduction in *E. coli* K-12. This proposal has not yet been submitted through the University's administrative officers, and its presentation at this time is therefore informal. A formally endorsed copy will be forwarded later if it meets with the approval of Vice-President Peterson, who is authorized to negotiate for the University on these matters. I am sending the advance copies in order to leave time to take care of any questions I may not have anticipated, prior to the September 15 deadline.

As stated in the proposal, the immediate purpose is to continue Dr. Morse's studies on the Gal-Lp transduction in *E. coli* K-12. This has proved to be one of the most interesting studies we have had an occasion to meet with in this laboratory, and it has engaged the close attention not only of Dr. Morse but of Dr. E. Lederberg and myself in its various aspects. As a graduate student, Morse proved himself to be an extremely well balanced research worker, with outstanding success both in the theoretical design and the practical execution of these experiments, and I am particularly hopeful to be able to continue the collaboration.

Dr. Morse's stipend is based on local standards, and perhaps needs no further explanation. However, he came to this laboratory after having had considerable research experience at Oak Ridge, and is a far more mature investigator than might be suggested by the recency of his Ph.D. degree. He has already been offered other positions than would pay considerably more than the indicated stipend. For his second year, it might be necessary to increase his salary (for competitive reasons) beyond the amount indicated. If so, it might be a question whether to encourage him to stay, or alternatively to seek university approval for a further increase, to be made up from other funds. He is married and has one child.

I would particularly call your attention to our hope that if the proposal is acceptable, it be activated at the earliest possible date, as stated in the proposal. We should have prepared this application for an earlier deadline, but last winter it was too soon to anticipate the details of the present circumstances.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

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